



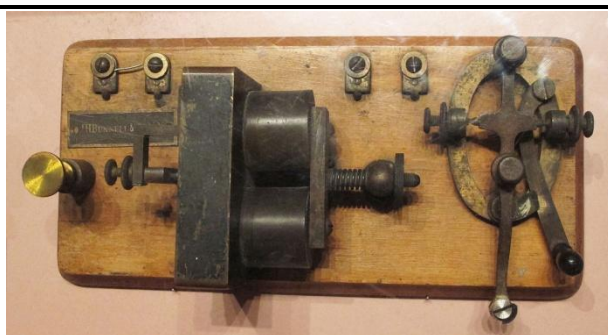
Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

April

2014

Issue No. 51



Wright Brothers Telegraph Key

Source: Wikipedia

CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday in April, 2014

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1)

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)

name/SPC (non-members)

CWops "neighborhood"

Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028, 10.118,
14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028, 50.098

CWops Officers and Directors

President: Rob Brownstein [K6RB](#)

Vice President: Peter Butler [W1UU](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson [K9CT](#)

Director: Bert Donn [G3XSN](#)

Director: Vidi La Grange [ZS1EL](#)

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Rick Tavan [N6XI](#)

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President's Message



This issue of *SolidCopy* is coincident with my fourth month of my second year as president of CWops. When I was elected I had several objectives in mind. I wanted to see CW

Academy continue to grow and improve. And it has. I wanted to see CWTs become more widely known and participated in. And they are. I wanted the CW Open to be more interesting to potential participants in ITU regions 1, 2 and 3. And I believe it will. I also wanted to have more 'champions'

...continued

representing CWops worldwide. So I suggested appointing ambassadors who can speak to our on-air activities, our Morse training efforts, and all aspects of our club.

I feel that the club envisioned by its founders back in November 2009 has been far more successful than any hoped it could be. We are increasingly known for our CW Academy and CWTs, and that's great. Our QTX program is unique and our club continues to grow in healthy fashion.

The CW Academy advisors are poised to begin the April-May semester, and as you'll see in this issue, we have inaugurated an associate advisor program to enable those interested in helping to learn the ropes first, by working with an experienced advisor.

Hank W6SX and I discussed expanding CWTs to every week, and Hank will roll it out in April and May. I know there are some who have clear arguments against this. And there are those who think it's a great idea. To be honest, I'm not sure. But I am sure that if we never try it, we'll never find out. Hank will say more about it later in this issue.

The upcoming CW Open 2014 will happen in September. Dean NW2K and I wrote a piece for NCJ and it is slated for publication very soon. It will explain the short history and changes to CWO since it was first run in 2011. The fourth running will truly seek to create a worldwide level playing field.

So, where do we go from here? Our mission is to be an inclusive club whose common denominator is the joy of CW operation. Instead of relying solely upon finding kindred spirits among those who are already competent CW operators, we have chosen also to mentor hams who want to acquire similar skills. I can think of at least three members (K6HTN, WT5RZ and W0EJ) who were initially CW Academy students. I'm sure there are even more.

We are doing, I think, a really good job with CW Academy but I feel we may be missing two constituencies – one that can attract even more seasoned amateurs, and one that may have a huge impact on keeping ham radio and CW alive even after most of us are gone.

I remember remarking to someone – it might have been Pete W1RM – when we were tossing around the idea for CW Academy, about working hams on the HF phone bands and chatting them up about CW. These are already people who have HF capabilities. So, that's one constituency. Hams who either gave up on CW, years ago, or never had to learn it and are just operating phone these days.

The other constituency is the real prize, though. I'm talking about young people. Ham radio today, at least in the USA, owes its longevity to teenagers who, like me, were attracted to its magic in the 1950s and early 1960s.

We all know the ARRL and others have been spending tons of money trying to interest today's youth in amateur radio. But these kids already have experience with handheld transceivers – their cell phones and smart phones. Radio *per se* is not magic to them. It's taken for granted. For example, read the editorial in the April 2014 QST by Dave Sumner K1ZZ.

But I believe there's another aspect to ham radio that some kids would find tantalizing – Morse-code radio. What I would like to happen is that, perhaps in our Sep-Oct 2014 CW Academy semester, we pull together five young people into one advisor's assigned group. Maybe we can even find 10 such youngsters and have two groups. With some publicity and testimonials from these kids, in media aimed at kids, it would have a chance of 'going viral,' as they say. Can you imagine a rebirth

of the novice era and a sudden drop in the average age of licensed amateurs? Is this a ball that CWops can start bouncing? Wouldn't it be fun to try?

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor

No April Foolin'



It is April already and Spring is in the air, at least for most of us CWops members who live in the Northern Hemisphere. Recent conditions on the HF bands have been extraordinary, possibly the best we've seen this cycle. The day I am writing this (March 29), 20 meters has been open to Europe from the West Coast of the USA all day and much of the evening. CWT records are dropping like flies. It has been a memorable contest season. DX rag chewing works, even with QRP. Enjoy it folks! It won't last much longer and it will be a long time returning. Personally, I've been fighting remote station glitches and editing the newsletter, so I have not been active enough. **Memo to self: Get on the air!**

There are at least three social events coming up in the next six weeks! If you live in North America or can get here, you really need to attend at least one. Say hello to fellow CWops members, meet members of other CW clubs and recruit the non-joiners who show up as guests.

- The Seventh Annual [CW Breakfast at Visalia](#), CA on April 5:
I "organize" this one because it requires no organizational skills. Good food and friendship jammed in between wakeup and official DX Convention activities; wish we had more time.
- The [North American CW Weekend](#) in the Washington, D.C. area on May 2-4:
Our founder N3JT has been a prime mover of this one for more years than I can count and Jim and his neighbors put on a great show.
- The [CWops Dinner at the Dayton Hamvention](#) on May 15:
"Go for the spaghetti; stay for the schmoozing." [inside joke]

Will WJ9B reports an interesting QSO in a recent CWT: *"I was running stations on 10m and a station replied with a signal report and state. I asked for his name. He sent signal report and state again. I asked for name, again. He didn't respond at all. I called him. Nothing. I called him a second time. He responded and, fumbling around in code, managed to say 'just go on...'* I responded 'no,' and at 13 WPM Farnsworth sent 'what is your name.' He sent his name. I sent 'RRR (his name) (his state).' He then called me and said "tnx for not giving up on me" (Seriously, that is exactly what he said.). I responded, 'u doing fb, dont give up.' He was relaxed by then and gave a good second thanks. I estimate that he would be level I in CWA." Will took two minutes on this QSO, lost a few waiting stations and saved a future CWop from getting discouraged. Attaboy, Will!

Enjoy the columns and articles this month. CU on the bands!

73,

Rick N6XI

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How We Were

Hank Garretson W6SX

Here are some memorable QSLs from member John K4BAI. I sure hope I sent him my card!

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
3500 14th. Avenue

K4BAI

RADIO K2SSX Confirming QSO of 18 Oct 1978
 at 1511 EST Ur 21 Mc. 579 Sigs RST 579
 Xmitr. PAIR OF 100 W's Rcvr. SP 400 X Ant 2 EL BEAM
 Remarks TKS FB QSO HANK.

☒ Pse QSL Tnx ☐ 73, John John T. Laney III
AG E 16

W2CWE PRESS
ACTS 16:31 =

USA-CA 1500
WPX, DXCC
VHSC, A1-OP
CHC 135, ARRL.

K4BAI

RADIO W4RZGC
 CONFIRMING 2 WAY AM CW SSB QSO
 OF 21 JAN 1988 AT 135 GMT
 UR 3.5 7 14 21 28 MC SIGS 59
EA QSO PARTY TR4 L4B
11-13 MAY 68 TA33
 PSE QSL
TKS HANK!

JOHN T. LANEY CPT, JAGC
 3500 14th Avenue US ARMY
 Columbus, Georgia 31904
 U. S. A.
 MUSCOGEE COUNTY

73, John IT'S KOREA FOR
 ME IN MAY - cu
 de H29??

COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA, U.S.A.

K4BAI

FOC 1121 ISWL CHC 135 ARRL DXCC WAZ WPX

QSO WITH	DATE	GMT	MHZ.	RST	2-WAY
<u>W6SX</u>	<u>14 OCT 79</u>	<u>2213</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>SSB</u>

TR4 L4B ☒
 RV4 CX7A ☒
 GP DIPOLE TH6DX ☒
 PSE (TNX) QSL

JOHN T. LANEY, III
 P.O. BOX 421
 COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31902
 U.S.A.
TKS HANK!

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News & Notes

Jerry AC4BT

This is a column where members can report their activities, happenings and achievements, both radio-related and personal. Please send brief notes to Jerry AC4BT at jweisskohk@gmail.com.

Special ‘Get Well Soon’ Wishes: CWops Member, **Kenny, K2KW**, is recovering at home after a very serious bout of double pneumonia and blood borne sepsis that has had him twice hospitalized. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers and drop him an e-mail or text note wishing him well.

Rob K6RB: I will be going to a ham weekend in Santa Fe at the beginning of April. One of the activities will be climbing some nearby peak and operating SOTA. Fred KT5X, who is a SOTA stalwart, will be leading the group. If I make it to the peak, I'll try to have someone take a photo (as proof) for **Solid Copy**. **Reminder:** The North American CW Weekend will be held May 2 – 4, 2014 at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, Fairfax, VA. All amateur radio operators and others with an interest in Morse code operations are invited. See article in this issue.

W1AW Operations:

The W1AW Centennial Operations have really sparked a great deal of world-wide activity across the ham bands and so far has been a huge success in drawing attention to Amateur Radio.

Kay N3KN summed it up well “... I’ve talked with a lot of hams since the fun began. Just about everybody has praised the W1AW/x operations as one of the coolest things to hit the ham bands, ever! The best comment I have heard was at the hamfest in Charlotte, NC, where a guy told me he knows a ham who had not been on the air in over 20 years but who came back to hamming to work the Centennial events.

Joe KC0VKN: There are several CWops members who will be operating W1AW/0 in Iowa the last week in March. N0SM, W0EA, myself and probably some members I've forgotten about.

Jerry AC4BT: I'll be operating W1AW/4 in Virginia on April 9th from 0200 – 0400Z.

Jack W1WEF: W1RM, K1RM and I expect to be operating in April as W1AW/1 from the rare W1AW state of CT.

Bill KC4D: For anyone planning to attend the Dayton Hamvention in May, I have reserved a Dining Room at the Spaghetti Warehouse on Thursday evening 15 May 2014 beginning at 5:30 PM, for an informal evening of refreshments, visiting & dinner for CWops and their friends. Please send me an email with the number in your party if you are interested in attending the dinner.

Also, I'm adding a second 4 El SteppIR Yagi @ the 75 Foot level on my tower and plan to operate two interlocked K3/ Amp stations in the Multi/Single Category in the upcoming May CQ WPX

CW with fellow CWops members Bill K1SE, Kenny K2KW, Dave KK4XX, and CWA student Dan AK4SQ.

Fred K6DGW: We live in a semi-rural neighborhood with no cable or DSL (or sewers :-)), and I host the local wireless ISP's RAP on my tower. In return, our Internet is free and we get the backhaul speed (15-20 Mbps). Recently, they replaced most of the equipment and added a router in a box at the bottom of the tower. To power it, they installed a home-built UPS in our shed. The 24VDC cable leaves the shed to the top of the tower and down to the router box. The power supply includes a Chinese SMPS and the DC cable to the tower loosely resembles an Inverted-L. Unfortunately, the noise is huge and is heard all over the neighborhood every 26 KHz from the AM broadcast band to about 60 meters, about -40 dBm on 80 meters. I referred them to K9YC's excellent RFI document k9yc.com/RFI-Ham.pdf and we're knocking the noise down. I think a few more toroids on several of the internal wires will finish the job. If you have RFI problems, "RF-in-the-shack," or anything you suspect is related, Jim's document is a must-read. He's done a great deal of research and his recommendations work.

Vic K2VCO: Around the middle of August or beginning of September, I will be moving back to Israel where I lived for 9 years during the '80s. Picking up and moving halfway around the world is harder at age 71 than it was at 35, but I will be with my kids and 7 grandchildren. I bought an apartment on the top floor (including roof) of a 10-story building, and will have a vertical up there. I'll miss my beam, but there's lots of empty space around the building and it should work acceptably.

Bob K6NV: I built a fan dipole for the WARC bands. It is strung between some trees up about 80 feet. So far it seems to be a real pile-up buster!

Warren K5UTG: I am trying to rig an Elecraft K1 into a Model T Ford which is wired for 6 volts. So far I have not been able to get the 12 volts.

VK9MT: CWops members W2LK and WA6O are on board the VK9MT (Mellish Reef) DXpedition, March 28 to April 9.

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Improving Your CW Skills

AC4BT – Jerry Weisskohl, CWOPS # 1148

Do you ever find yourself wanting to work CW or practice CW but you are away from your radio station? Perhaps you're a CWA student in-between semesters. Or you are looking for ways to improve your CW skills to get to 20 wpm or to the 25 wpm requirement for membership in CWops, or even a seasoned op who is trying to get to 50 wpm and doesn't know exactly where to start. Here are a few ways to do just that using your computer, smartphone or tablet.

I have about a 40 minute commute each way, to and from work, and I find this a great time to listen to CW in the car. Whether you are retired or working part-time, waiting in a Doctor's office or on long lines, commuting or running errands, these are all perfect opportunities to hone your CW skills.

By the use of two programs that I will mention below, you can build CW practice files (MP3) that can then be played at a customized speed to challenge you to reach your next level in CW comprehension.

Although there are an abundance of useful CW on-line tools, I would like to focus on two programs that, when used in tandem, form the basis of a CW self-improvement program and become an effective customized practice regimen to help improve your CW skills even with limited available free time. Many of us have busy schedules with various commitments but this practice regimen will work even with as little as ½ hour a day. Of course, the more time available, the more measurable progress can be realized.

The two programs are called "QRQ" and "ebook2cw." The links to them are listed at the end of this article with some helpful hints for the PC and Mac platforms. QRQ and ebook2cw were both written by DJ1YFK Fabian Kurz and are open source and free to download and use.

Both programs allow for CW speed customizations so that you can work at the exact speed that is challenging and slightly above your comfort level to optimally push you towards copying CW at the next higher level. When you reach each intermediate goal you can increase the CW speed another notch to progress even further. In this manner, these tools never become outdated or tiring as the challenges are customized to your ability and current CW comprehension and remain relevant as you progressively move forward from one level to the next.

The QRQ package referenced below includes a set of common word text files so that it is very easy to start practicing right away. You can set the WPM speed, CW tone frequency and other variables. Once the settings are customized and saved, you press the F6 key to hear the first word. If you didn't copy it you can repeat the word as many times as you need. Repeatedly playing back the word allows you to pay close attention to and hear the sound of the full word or parts of the word. Once you know the word, you can then go on to the next word or type it in and the program will show you if you copied the word correctly.

The idea is not to write anything down, just copy the words in your head. This is great practice for visualizing the characters, copying behind, and training yourself to hold entire words in your memory. By not writing anything down your brain is forced to deal directly with the task of copying and deciphering the words. At higher speeds you will also begin to hear the word sounds and if the word is long like the word "establishment" you begin to hear the unique sounds of parts of the word like the ending "...ment" and the unique sound of the middle part 'ish'. In this way you can begin to recognize and piece together familiar word sounds. There are approximately 6000 most common words included in the set of text files (each text file contains about 120 words). The set can be practiced with the goal of getting familiar enough with the sound of the words that you can easily

recognize them when you hear them again. The QRQ program has versions for both the PC and Mac and would be used along with the second program “ebook2cw.”

Ebook2cw takes text files as input and converts them to MP3 files which you can listen to on any device that plays MP3s. You can set the WPM CW speed, put in a time delay between words, use Farnsworth timing for the characters, etc. In effect, you can build and customize CW sound files to your own exact needs.

ebook2cw reinforces the training you do with the QRQ program mentioned above. After practicing each of the word files in QRQ to the point where you are now familiar with the words, you would then build an MP3 file using the same word file and listen to the resulting MP3 while in the car, running errands, etc. The difference will be that the MP3 will continuously play one word after the other and test your ability to recognize the words you studied using the QRQ program. You will begin to recognize the unique sounds of the words or parts of the words and will already be familiar with many of these sounds from the practice that was done using the QRQ program.

It is very easy to re-sort the order of the words in each file so that you don't begin to anticipate the next word that is played. There is a free Web service that provides a random sort for any list of words. The URL for this excellent web site is www.random.org/lists . Open the txt file you want to sort in a text editor, select all the words (CTRL-A), copy the entire word list (CTRL-C) and then paste the selection (CTRL-V) into the sort window at www.random.org/lists and press the Sort button. When the sort completes, you can then copy the newly sorted word list by selecting all (CTRL-A) and then copying it (CTRL-C) and then paste (CTRL-V) the selection back into the text editor and save the file. In this manner you can sort the list whenever you become too familiar with the order of the words.

The words will sound different at 30 WPM than they did at 20 WPM so as you progress and increase your speed you will need to use the QRQ program to go through the word files, re-familiarize yourself with the word sounds at the higher speeds, build the higher speed MP3 files from these words using ebook2cw and then practice listening to them.

Using this method, you will in effect be increasing your “CW vocabulary” from using QSO-related words and CW abbreviations to adding a full working vocabulary in CW and thus using CW more as a language.

Word of caution: As you drive around listening to these MP3 files make sure you don't go off the road!

QRQ link and Notes

The URL for the main QRQ site is: <http://fkurz.net/ham/qrq.html>.

Below is the link to download the ZIP file for the PC pre-packaged version that includes the 15 most common word files. Download and unzip this file to a new folder. Run the QRQ.exe program. The program just runs in the folder and does not install. The 15 most common word files are really

text (.txt) files but were renamed with a .qcb extension. To work with these files and read them into a text editor or to use them in ebook2cw you just need to rename them to end in a .txt extension.

<http://www.box.net/s/v2mc1376ccnafh4vyzfl>

Here is a link to additional information about QRR including a YouTube video on how to use the program:

<http://qrrcwnet.ning.com/forum/topics/dj1yfk-fabian-s-famous-high-speed-cw-training-program-called-qrr->

For the Mac, go to the main QRR web site (<http://fkurz.net/ham/qrr.html>) and download the Mac OS X dmg package. The Mac can also use the 15 most common word files found in the PC ZIP file above.

ebook2cw link and Notes

The URL for the main ebook2cw web site is: <http://fkurz.net/ham/ebook2cw.html>

For the PC, there is a nice Graphical User Interface (GUI) that allows for easy selection of the options. Download both ebook2cwgui.exe and ebook2cw.exe and place them in a new folder. With both of the programs in the same folder run ebook2cwgui for the GUI version, which is much easier to use.

For the Mac, email me and I can provide a version compiled for the Mac and instructions on how to run it.

Ebook2cw has several useful options that can be set. These are documented on the main ebook2cw web page.

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CWops Ambassador Program

by Rob Brownstein K6RB

Now that our club has grown to more than 1000 members worldwide, and is engaged in several on-air and online training activities, there is a critical need for members in different regions, continents and countries to become local representatives for the club. Recently, we created a new position called “ambassador” that is now an integral component of our CWops Bylaws. Its purpose is to place strong CW enthusiasts as front-line advocates and leaders for CWops in their familiar territories.

A CWops ambassador appointment is a prestigious one. It says that the ambassador knows a lot about what CWops is doing, that she or he participates in many CWops activities, and that she or he is a strong supporter of the club and of CW generally.

I would like to have our first corps of ambassadors in place by June 2014 or sooner. So let me tell you what qualifications and qualities I think are needed. I am hoping you will express an interest and become part of what will be a select team of people at the forefront of advocating CW worldwide. So here we go:

1. A CWops ambassador must be a member of the club in good standing and be active on the bands. So, for example, I should see your callsign on the ACA/CMA list in *Solid Copy* or otherwise know that you are one of those people who is frequently on the air. I would expect an ambassador to participate in our CWT and/or CWO activities, too. There is no alternative to being active as a critical qualification of an ambassador.

2. I don't necessarily expect an ambassador to be an advisor in the CW Academy program but I do expect him or her to be able to explain the program, how it functions, and what kinds of results it is achieving. Moreover, I want our ambassadors to encourage members in their territories to take part as advisors. Three times per year we get about 100 signups for our CW Academy program. Most of them are located in USA, but we are getting more and more signups from Europe, South America, and Oceania, and even some from Africa. Even if there is not a full complement of five students in some of those areas, the ambassador would be expected to help recruit advisors who can help one or two signups per session, or can him or herself lend a hand as necessary. We have advisors in Australia and the Netherlands, for example, who work with one or two signups per session, and gets excellent results.

3. Our ambassadors should know about ham gatherings in their territories and attend them. For example, an ambassador in Germany should know about Friedrichshafen and be there. She or he should also attend some larger local club meetings. At those events the ambassador would arrange to talk about CWops, either informally or as part of an organized group of presenters and presentations, and/or host a booth with handouts.

4. Each ambassador has multiple roles to play. He or she will encourage qualified hams in his/her territory to look into joining CWops and encourage hams who want to improve their CW skills to look into and sign up for CW Academy. The ambassador will engage with ham media that cover the territory to inform them about CWTs, CW Open and CW Academy. The engagement could be in the form of a discussion with leave-behind materials, or an article written by the ambassador for publication in local ham media.

Every CWops ambassador will receive a special badge to wear at local meetings and ham gatherings that identifies him/her as a CWops ambassador. We will provide our ambassadors with CWops buttons to be given out at large gatherings, CWops banners to be used for booths at a large ham conventions, and sample awards to be used to explain about our on-air activities.

With help from our board and officers, I have identified an initial group of ambassadorial territories. See below. Members in those territories who are interested in serving as an ambassador should email me directly (k6rb@baymoon.com) and use "ambassador" in the subject field of the message so I know it's important! I also will contact people individually to discuss the program and encourage them to give it a try. Hopefully, between these two approaches we can develop the first cadre of ambassadors and launch our program.

With a club of our size and geographical diversity, it is impossible for officers and board members to play the role of managers and ambassadors. Put simply, we need your help. I look forward to talking about the role and ultimately appointing our first group of ambassadors.

Initial Territories

Check out the [CWops Web site for seven maps](http://www.cwops.org/members/amb.html): United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa and South America, with the ambassadorial areas delineated. For example, in the US the NE area is the states that normally have 1, 2, 3 or 8 in the callsigns. The SE is the states with a 4 in the callsign. In all, the US includes NW, SW, N Ctrl, S Ctrl, NE and SE areas. Canada includes WCA and ECA. Europe is divided into NEW, SWE, NCE, SCE and EE. Asia includes MEA, RUA, CN, JA and SA. Oceania is one area for now, OC. Africa is AFN and AFS. Finally, South America is SAN and SAS. See the detailed maps on the club Web site at <http://www.cwops.org/members/amb.html>.

If you look for your QTH, you will find it in one of the ambassadorial areas. These were drawn up based on geography, not the numbers of licensed amateurs. Some areas include multiple countries with different local languages. In only rare cases is an ambassador a “national” appointment (e.g. China and Japan). Most ambassadors will cover two or more states, provinces or countries.

Ambassadors will be appointed based on their locations within an ambassadorial area. **Precedence is given to those who indicate an interest by emailing the club president (k6rb@baymoon.com)**. CWops activity is a key qualifier. In essence an ambassador is expected to represent CWops at ham events in his/her area. An ambassador should be able to speak with assurance about CWops activities and programs. Ambassadors will have at their disposal slide presentations that can be used at an event. In addition, an ambassador can request a CWops banner and sample awards to be used for a booth at a large ham event. For example, the club currently has banners and samples for use in North America (Dayton), Japan (Tokyo Ham Fair) and Europe (Friedrichshafen).

I hope to hear from many of you indicating interest in serving as ambassadors in your areas.

73,

Rob K6RB
President

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The Seventh Annual Visalia CW Breakfast April 5, 2014

Rick Tavan N6XI

Once again we (CWops, FOC and other CW-oriented guests) plan to gather for breakfast at the "CW Restaurant" (aka “Country Waffle”) on the Saturday morning of the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA, USA on April 5, 2014. There is no convention breakfast on the Saturday

morning, so this is the way to go! The convention will be at its new location for a second year, the downtown Visalia Convention Center and its surrounding hotels, so we may need to arrange more than one gathering point for carpools. More details on that will follow once I know who is coming. We will **meet at 7:15** at the hotels and arrive at the **restaurant around 7:30**. We plan to be back at the Convention Center in time for the convention activities. This is a low-pressure, low-planning, no prizes, separate checks and good food affair that has been well received in the past by many members and guests and well executed by restaurant staff.

Note that there are two Country Waffle restaurants in Visalia. We will be eating at our usual one at **5410 W Cypress Ave.** Although it's slightly farther from the Convention Center than its sister establishment, they have been terrific hosts for the past six years. Also, La Quinta hotel, where some of our members will be staying, is in the same shopping center. If you are staying downtown, drive west on Rte. 198 to the Akers St exit. If you are at one of the airport hotels, drive east on 198. Either way, exit South on Akers and immediately turn right into the shopping center. There is plenty of free parking.

IMPORTANT: Please e-mail me (rick@tavan.com) if **you and any guests** are coming so I can warn the restaurant ahead of time how many to expect. They literally rearrange their main dining area for us! Also, tell me **where you are staying**. If you can drive, please let me know how many **extra car seats** you will have. I will do my best to arrange car pooling from the appropriate hotels.

Thanks and CU in Visalia!

73, Rick N6XI

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The North American CW Weekend

May 2-4, 2014

Washington, DC

Attention CW Operators! The North American CW Weekend to be held May 2-4, 2014, at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, Virginia. All amateur radio operators and others with an interest in Morse code operation are invited. We have had good participation from FOC, CWOPS, FISTS, PVRC, CVCC, NCDXA, and several other Morse code-oriented and contest groups in the past.

Reservations at the Marriott can be made by calling the hotel directly [703-849-9400.] *We have obtained a special group rate of \$ 90.00 per night. Please specify you are with the "North American CW Weekend Group" when making your arrangements.* Guests can call [1-800-228-9290](tel:1-800-228-9290) and ask for the "North American room block" to make a reservation. For those who would like to make a reservation online through the [hotel's web site](#), the Group Code is **NRTNRTA**. *Directions to the Marriott are available on the web site. The hotel is readily accessible from the Capital Beltway, and there is easy access to area airports and public transportation.*

There is a modest registration of \$25.00 per person which is used to defray the costs of the hospitality suite. Registration can be paid by check to Don Lynch W4ZYT, 1517 West Little Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-4717. Don's e-mail is w4zyt.don@gmail.com.

Here are the "Nuts and Bolts" of the Weekend:

- There will be a hospitality suite in the hotel from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning. The room number, which will be assigned a few days before the weekend, will be available from the front desk. Ask for CW, or North American CW. This is where folks will congregate when not at another event. Please be sure you have paid W4ZYT \$25 per person to cover the hospitality suite, etc.
- Informal pizza dinner Friday at 6 p.m. at a nearby all-you-can-eat pizza emporium. It's a popular event and a good way to chat with folks! A map will be provided. Meet in the hotel lobby at 5:30 p.m. sharp.
- Saturday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m. there is brunch at N3JT's QTH, just minutes from the hotel. See the map to be provided.
- The informal dinner Saturday evening at Da Domenico's at Tyson's Corner begins at 7 p.m. There is a bar at the restaurant so some go there earlier, like at 6 p.m. Please be seated in the area designated for us at 7 p.m. There are no presentations or speeches! Everyone gets his own check for dinner. Ladies may choose to sit together.
- Sunday morning at 9 a.m. gather in the hotel restaurant for breakfast.
- For those who may want to visit W3LPL's super station, please contact Frank and make arrangements for Friday, Saturday or Sunday. 410.489.9826.

This has been a splendid event in the past and is a great opportunity to connect with other CW folks face-to-face. We hope you can join us!

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Dayton Dinner

Bill Perkins KC4D

Again this year, I have reserved a Dining Room at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Dayton, OH on Thursday evening, 15 May 2014, beginning at 5:30 PM, for an informal evening of refreshments, visiting & dinner for CWops and their friends. We order from the menu, it's always fun and I look forward to greeting many of you again this year. The Spaghetti Warehouse is only a short block North of the Dayton Crowne Plaza, where most of the Dayton Hamvention Hospitality Rooms are based. Many of us walk there after dinner and spend the rest of the evening touring.

The address of the Spaghetti Warehouse is 35 W. 5th Street in Dayton, OH and their phone is [\(937\) 461-3913](tel:937-461-3913).

If you're able, please drop me an e-mail with the number you expect in your party, so I can assure we have adequate space.

See you at Dayton...

Bill Perkins KC4D, CWops #419

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CW Academy

Jack W0UCE and Will WJ9B

While membership in CWops continues to grow and CWT events gain popularity, another aspect of our great club that is a resounding success is CW Academy. Since inception there has always been a waiting list for all three levels of training. Student applications continue to exceed the number of Advisors which limits our ability to meet demand. Several Advisors are now teaching two and three classes during the three semester classes conducted annually.

In an effort to expand CW Academy Advisor capability, we are instituting the CW Academy Assistant Advisor Program. The purpose of the program is to “Train the Trainers” whereby volunteers will assist current Advisors in conducting Level I, II and III CW Academy classes.

Club Members and CWA graduate volunteers will gain experience in teaching CWA classes and go on to become CWA Advisors. Associate Advisors will learn how to:

- Teach beginners Morse code using proven techniques.
- Teach Morse code proficiency enhancement.
- Help students overcome individual problems.
- Help students attain individual goals.
- Conduct student practice sessions.
- Work with students on the air and ooVoo interactive video conferencing.
- Teach and conduct CWA Classes.
- Teach tricks of the trade related to Contesting, Operating Special Event Stations, Chasing DX, Conversational Rag Chewing and Traffic Handling.

While the CW Academy Associate Advisor Program is in its infancy, two recent graduates will be assisting WJ9B and three more have volunteered to assist W0UCE during the April-May Semester. The program provides an excellent opportunity to learn, enhance personal knowledge and most importantly, give something back to our great hobby and our club. No prior teaching experience is required. To volunteer, contact Rob K6RB at k6rb@baymoon.com. Rob will then assign you to a current CWA Advisor. Thanks in advance for your help to increase CW Academy's ability to meet student demand.

73,

Jack and Will

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CWT Mini-Tests

by Hank Garretson W6SX

CWops Tests 2013 Participation Awards

They are finally here. And, they are really nice.



I'll be mailing the medals within the next two weeks. Please be patient—this is a volunteer operation.

If you would like me to bring your medal to the Visalia International DX Convention, please email me at w6sx@arrl.net.

CWops Tests Every Wednesday in April and May

My announcement that we will have CWops Tests every Wednesday in April and May generated many good comments. There are good points for and good points against. A good way to know is to try it. We will try weekly CWTs for two months.

If weekly CWTs are good, we will continue. If not good, we will revert to two per month. Indeed, if April is a bust, we'll revert to two per month in May. Vote with your keys.

The next CW Academy graduation is the end of May, so all CWops Tests in April and May will be regular sessions. Whether we go to weekly CWTs or not, we intend to have CW Academy welcome sessions for grads after each graduation. Next will be in June.

Here is Sunshine Rhonda awarding your CWT Manager his 2013 CWT Participation Award:



The first rule of CW is to have fun and to share the fun. [two rules? – Ed.]

CW Exuberantly,

Hank

W6SX

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(keep reading; we're not done yet!)

CWops Awards

Pete W1RM and Peter W1UU

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get one point per member worked, once per year. It resets to zero at the beginning of each year. The Cumulative Member Award (CMA) is based on how many members you've worked since January 3, 2010 on each band and continues to grow in perpetuity. The CWops Award Manager (CAM) software, available at no cost, will help you keep track of your ACA and CMA totals.

ACA/CMA

<u>Call</u>	<u>ACA</u>	<u>CMA</u>
F6HKA	393	2577
VE3KI	348	2513
W1RM	322	2993
W0VX	296	1681
N5RR	264	2949
DL8PG*	248	1372
N1EN	234	513
KZ5D	197	3020
W1UU	197	1374
K1ESE	189	1282
AD1C	188	1242
FG8NY	165	1463
PA7RA	139	1037
K6RB	134	2356
W9ILY	131	1727
K6DGW	85	1158
NN6T	80	1189
OH2BN	45	530
EA8OM/DJ1OJ/EF8O	41	1896
G0DJA	12	19

DXCC

<u>Call</u>	<u>Total</u>
W1RM	124
OH2BN	112
W4VQ	105
F6HKA	100
EA8OM	85

N5RR	85
EA1WX	80
KZ5D	77
K1ESE	75
VK3KI	74
KR3E	73
W0VX	73
W9ILY	69
AD1C	65
NN6T	64
W1UU	61
FG8NY	59
W6KY	52
4Z1UF	50
K6RB	48
K6DGW	29
G0DJA	10

WAS

<u>Call</u>	<u>Total</u>
N5RR	50
F6HKA	49
W1RM	49
AD1C	48
K6DGW	48
K6RB	48
KZ5D	48
NN6T	48
VE3KI	48
W6KY	48
W9ILY	48
EA8OM	47
FG8NY	47
K1ESE	47
KR3E	47
EA1WX	46
W0VX	45
W1UU	45

OH2BN	42
4Z1UF	36
G0DJA	6

WAE

<u>Call</u>	<u>Total</u>
W1RM	41
OH2BN	40
EA8OM	36
F6HKA	36
N5RR	36
KR3E	34
KZ5D	34
FG8NY	31
W0VX	31
W9ILY	31
EA1WX	30
K1ESE	30
VE3KI	29
W1UU	28
NN6T	26
AD1C	24
4Z1UF	21
K6RB	21
W6KY	16
K6DGW	8
G0DJA	7

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Secretary's Report

by Jim Talens N3JT and Colin Jenkins KU5B

With great pleasure we welcome the following new members to CWOps:

1262	K5UTG	Warren
1263	W0JX	Dennis
1264	NS0R	Morgan
1265	W2GN	Charlie

1266 W6KC* Jim
1267 K6HP* Ed
1268 KL7SB* Steve
1269 W0EJ* Bill

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of March 29:

Need Sponsors: KI6UP, N7YT, K6MR

Invitations Extended:

For more details about nominees and status, check the “Members Only” pages on the Website: www.cwops.org.

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under “Membership.”

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QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

QTX is a program for members who enjoy casual CW QSOs. Any time you have a QSO that goes over 20 minutes, jot down the call sign of the other station, and before the fifth of the next month, go to the [CWOps website QTX page](#) in the Members Only section and put in your total. One point is awarded for each QSO of 20 minutes or longer. We have two ways to recognize QTX activities - The QTX Plaque and the QTX Achievement Medal.

QTX Plaque Standings

The QTX Plaque is awarded to the operator with the most QTX points at the end of the year. February is a short month, but the QTX gang did their best to stretch it out and warm it up. With two months under our belt, these are the standings at the end of February -

Call	Feb	CY2014
KI4XH	73	146
WB6BEE	52	100
K5KV	38	74
N5IR	35	84

NN6T	31	62
K5LY	24	47
K4AHO	24	56
N1ZX	23	55
WA3NZR	17	37
KE6OIO	14	28
JE1TRV	14	20
N4SR	13	23
WA8IWK	7	23
KC9EE	7	11
K0DTJ	7	16
N5RR	6	6
W5JQ	4	11
K6RB	4	15
K6HTN	4	5
K8QI	3	8
W4VQ	1	1

Again John KI4XH is leading the pack. Like several others, he had the same number of QTX points in February as he had in January.

This is the first chance for 2014 personal bests and these stations beat their January total - WB6BEE, K5KV, K5LY, JE1TRV, N4SR, KC9EE, N5RR, K6HTN, and W4VQ. Each month that will be harder to do.

It was a short month. Total QSOs were 401, down 31 from January. Reporting stations were 21, up one from last month.

QTX Achievement Medals

QTX Medals will be awarded at the end of the year for 400 QTX points (Gold), 300 QTX points (Silver), and 200 QTX points (Bronze). So far no one has reported hitting one of those levels for 2014. As I write this in mid-March I am at about 100 points and have a ways to go. John KI4XH should be about at the 200 point level. Anyone else getting close?

Unlike the QTX Plaque, you don't have to send in totals monthly. Just let me know when you have reached an achievement level and I will report it here.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792

QTX Manager

QTX – All About Conversational CW

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